Message Text

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O 181005Z JUN 77 FM USDEL GRENADA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0045

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CORRECTED COPY FOR SECTION INFORMATION

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 25

E.9. 11652 GDS TAGS: PORG, OAS, SHUM SUBJ: OASGA COMMITTEE SESSIONS JUNE 17

SEE SEPTEL COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT OASGA

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE I MET THREE HOURS IN THE MORNING TO HEAR IAHRC CHAIRMAN ANDRES AGUILAR CONTINUE HIS REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE. BULK OF SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS BY WHICH COMMISSION DECIDES SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT NECESSARY ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY AND HISTORY OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN IAHRC AND URUGUAY, FOLLOWED BY REBUTTAL OF AGUILAR'S ACCOUNT BY URUGUAY REP ALVAREZ. CHILE AND CUBA REPORTS WILL BE DEBATED TOMORROW. AFTERNOON GENERAL COMMITTEE SESSION OF FOUR HOURS DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 AND 26. COMMITTEE II REVIEWED ECONOMIC ISSUES AND PASSED RESOLUTIONS. COMMITTEE III, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE, COMPLETED WORK ON ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGENDA ITEMS AND DISBANDED. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAIRMAN AGUILAR DEFENDED IAHRC AGAINST SERIES OF CHARGES MADE IN INFORMAL DIALOGUES AT OPENING OF MORNING SESSION. COMMITTEE IS NOT ACTION ORGANIZATION BUT INTEGRAL PART OF OAS STRUCTURE WITH CLEAR MANDATE FROM MEMBERSHIP TO MONITOR STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HEMIS-

PHERE. SPECIAL REPORTS ARE NOT INITIATED CAPRICIOUSLY BY THE COMMISSION BUT ARE RESULT OF MAJORITY DECISION WHEN NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY RESPECTED INSTITUTIONS SUGGEST CRISIS IN HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVES WHOLE POPULATION OF A COUNTRY, NOT SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS OR ISLOATED GROUPS.

- 3. DURING LAST YEAR, IN ADDITION TO REPORTS ON CHILE AND CUBA, COMMISSION DECIDED SPECIAL REPORTS WERE NECESSARY ON TWO OTHER COUNTRIES. ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS WERE DEEMED ESSENTIAL. COMMISSION LOOKS TO OAS MEMBER STATES FOR COOPERATION; IT DOES NOT MAKE PUBLIC REQUEST FOR INVITATION TO VISIT BUT EXPRESSES PRIVATE INTEREST AND WAITS FOR APPROVAL.
- 4. COMMISSION APPROACHED GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY INFORMALLY IN NOVEMBER TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST. PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWED. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR INVITATION WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING, COMMISSION DECIDED TO PREPARE SPECIAL REPORT ON BASIS ON DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE. BECAUSE OF DEADLINE FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR OASGA, IT SENT NOTE TO PERMANENT COUNCIL IN APRIL REQUESTING INCLUSION OF SPECIAL REPORT ON URUGUAY. PROCEDURAL COMPLICATIONS WERE USED TO FRUSTRATE THIS EFFORT BUT REPORT HAS BEEN WRITTEN, UNFORTUNATELY, WITHOUT COOPERATION OF GOU, AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, WITHOUT CHANCE TO CONDUCT ON-SITE INVESTIGATION.
- 5. CHARGE HAS BEEN MADE REPORT ON URUGUAY INITIATED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTIGATION OF US GOVERNMENT OR UNDER PRESSURE FROM US PUBLIC/CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. AGUILAR SAID THIS CHARGE WAS SLUR ON INTEGRITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, WHO ARE LAWYERS AND, PRIVATE CITIZENS OF VARIOUS HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES AND NOT AT SERVICE OF ANY SINGLE STATE. HOW MEMBERS VOTE IS CONFIDENTIAL BUT CLEAR MAJORITY APPROVED URUGUYAN REPORT.

6. AGUILAR CONCLUDED ANOTHER BALANCED, COOL BUT FORCE-FUL PRESENTATION BY DEFENDING CRITERIA EMPLOYED BY COMMISSION. SAID IAHRC IS PERFECTLY AWARE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS BUT HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED POLITICIZING ISSUE IN ITS REPORTS. CHARTER OF OAS MAKES CLEAR THAT REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IS IDEAL OF ORGANIZATION BUT IAHRC HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED COMMENT ON EMERGENCE OF NEW FORMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE AND CONCENTRATED ON DEFENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AGAINST ILLEGAL ARREST, PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL, TORTURE AND MEDICAL

NEGLECT, AND SUMMARY EXECUTION OR SECRET MURDER. THESE ABUSES ARE AN AFFRONT TO CIVILIZED WORLD. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND REPRESENTATION HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUSLY SUBORDINATED TO DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIFE. QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER AND HOW VOTES CONDUCTED BUT HOW TO END UNSPEAKABLE TORTURES AND CRIMES PERPETRATED BY GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES.

7. URUGUAYAN REPRESENTATIVE ALVARO ALVAREZ MADE 15 MINUTE REBUTTAL HTAT CONCENTRATED ON WHERE, WHEN AND WHAT URUGUAYAN REPRESENTATIVES NEGOTIATED WITH IAHRC. HE REJECTED AGUILAR'S CONTENTION THAT COMMISSION HAD EVER REALLY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT BUT DID NOT RULE OUT EVENTUAL INVITATION.

8. FONMIN MONTES OF ARGENTINA, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I (FINMIN OF COSTA RICA, GONZALO FACIO, DEPARTED GA CONFIDENTIAL

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MORNING OF JUNE 17) SUGGESTED RECESS UNTIL FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN AGUILAR WILL CONTINUE HIS PRESENTATION, TURNING TO SPECIAL REPORTS ON CHILE AND CUBA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GREANDA 00040

9. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FONMIN JIMENEZ TOOK FLOOR UNEXPECTEDLY TO PAY EFFUSIVE TRIBUTE TO ACT OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN, "MOTHER COUNTRY AND AGAIN AS MODEL TO LATIN

AMERICA", SIGNIFICANT TO ALL WHO SAW FREE EXERCISE OF RIGHTS TO ASSEMBLY SPEECH AND CHOICE AS ESSENTIAL TO PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS. VENEZUELA, MEXICO, PERU, AND ECUADOR GAVE THEIR SUPPORT TO DR STATEMENT, TO WHICH SPANISH PERMANENT OBSERVER RESPONDED WITH GRATITUDE.

10. COMMITTEE II, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, CONTINUED TO MEET IN ANOTHER HALL. ON JUNE 16 AND 17, IT DISPOSED OF MORE ROUTING MATTERS, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVING TWO RESOLUTIONS CONVOKING THE XIII INTER-AMERICAN TRAVEL CONGRESS NEXT SEPTEMBER IN CARACAS AND THE VII INTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL CONFERENCE NEXT NOVEMBER IN SANTO DOMINGO. THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED, WITH US ABSTENTIONS, TWO RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING INCLUSION OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA IN THE US. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES AND THE REDUCTION OF TOOLS FOR USE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. ANOTHER RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY URUGUAY AND SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES STATES THAT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD CONSIDER NO CRITERIA OTHER THAN "INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED OBJECTIVE STANDARDS" AND THOSE ESTABLISHED BY EACH INSTITUTION'S OWN STATUTES. CONFIDENTIAL

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VENEZUELA, WHICH SUPPORTED A SIMILAR RESOLUTION DURING THE I-ECOSOC MEETING LAST APRIL, CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH A LENGHTY INTERVENTION BY AMB MACHIN TO ABSTAIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS. MACHIN, JAMICA, TRINIDAD, AND THE US ALSO ABSTAINED.

11. TWO REMAINING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED JUNE 18. ONE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF IA-ECOSOC BUT ALSO WOULD ATTEMPT TO RESURRECT A CONSULTATIVE ROLE FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN) CONCERNING INTER-NATIONAL FINANCIAL MATTERS. MEXICO IS THE AUTHOR OF THIS ATTEMPT; WE WILL TRY TO DEFLECT SUCH A CONSULTA-TIVE ROLE, AND IF UNSUCCESSFUL WILL HAVE TO ABSTAIN. THE FINAL RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED IS A FIVE PAGE DRAFT BY ARGENTINA AND MEXICO ON THE US TRADE ACT OF 1974 THAT INCORPORATES MANY OF THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT SCCN MEETING BUENOS AIRES. A WORKING GROUP INCLUDING THE US WILL ATTEMPT TO MODIFY THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SO THAT IT CAN BE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. WE WILL HAVE TO INSIST ON SOME MODIFICA-TIONS, MOSTLY TO CHANGE THE TONE OF THE DOCUMENT, SINCE THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE DRAFTERS, IS TO GET US SUPPORT, WE THINK THE CHANCES ARE MODERATLY GOOD THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR THE FINAL VERSION.

12. COMMITTEE III, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE, COMPLETED ALL WORK ON ANNUAL REPORT OF CIECC. A WORKING GROUP COMPOSED OF MEXICO AND PANAMA WAS CREATED TO HOLD A JOINT MEETING WITH A SIMILAR GROUP FROM COMMITTEE IV, PROGRAM AND BUDGET ON TWO PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS. ONE WOULD FREE CIECC COUNTRY PROGRAMS FROM OBSERVANCE OF OAS SECRETARIAT REGULATIONS ON PROCUREMENT; THE OTHER WOULD PROVIDE THAT NON-OBLIGATED FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEARY 1978 AND 1979 ONLY WILL BE RETAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MAR DEL PLATA ACCOUNT AND NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL CAPITAL WORKING FUND.

13. GENERAL COMMITTEE: REPORTS UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 3, 4, 5, 7, AND 8 NOTED WITH LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION. RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S YEAR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. FOR FIRST TIME EVER, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS ADDRESSED GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE COMPLIMENTED OAS ON ITS STRONG INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEM, NOTED IT COULD BE MADE EVEN BETTER, AND SUMMARIZED OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN BOARDS'S REPORT.

15. ARGENTINA PRESENTED PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESOLUTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9 WHICH WOULD CHANGE WORKING OF ARTICLE 44 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGULATIONS BY DELETING PHRASE LIMITING GA TO 2ND QUARTER OF EACH YEAR. PURPOSE IS TO PERMIT GA TO BE HELD CLOSER TO END OF NEW FISCAL YEAR. THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER IN NEXT SESSION.

16. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BROUGHT UP CASE OF PENSION FOR WIDOW OF FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL SANDERS. RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED TO GIVE HER PENSION DURING PERIOD WHEN SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT ANNUTIES FOR SECGEN AND ASST SECGEN YOT YET ESTABLISHED. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF INSTITUTIONALIZING SYSTEM OF ANNUITIES SO SUCH SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO LONGER NECESSARY. RESOLUTION BEING DRAFTED BY SECRETARIAT WHICH WILL CALL FOR 8TH GA TO TAKE UP SUBJECT.

17. JUST BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTED RESOLUTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 16: STATUS OF AMERICAN INDIANS. US DEL ACCEPTED BOLIVIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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INVITATION TO CO-SPONSOR RESOLUTION ENTRUSTING ENTER-AMERICAN INDIAN WITH THE SPECIFIC MISSION OF PREPARING FIVE-YEAR PLAN ON "INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN ACTION" AND REQUEST PERM. COUNCIL ASSIST INSTITUTE IN THIS EFFORT AND PRESENT TO 8TH8TH GA THE PLAN REQUESTED. BOLIVIAN RESOLUTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, ALSO "SUGGESTS TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES URGENT NEED TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE".

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